WASHINGTON POST
AND TIMES HERALD

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JAN 15 1966

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Hoover Says Reds Forged Smear Note

FBI Chief Charges Letter to Jenkins Fabricated by KGB

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FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover charged yesterday that the Soviet "Disinformation Department" is trying to smear him by distributing a forged letter from him to former White House aide Walter Jenkins.

The forged letter, which FBI sources described as obscene, is part of "a concerted Communist smear campaign," Hoover declared in a letter mailed Jan. 11 to Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper (R-Iowa.).

Jenkins was one of President Johnson's closest aides until he left the White House in October 1964, after it was revealed that he had been arrested on two morals charges.

The FBI said copies of the forged letter have been mailed to members of Congress and other high Government officials. Many were sent from Philadelphia and Baltimore.

The FBI presumably knows the identity of the persons who mailed the letters in this country.

The Soviet "Disinformation Department" is the name the Central Intelligence Agency applies to what it considers a counter-propaganda agency of the top Soviet security bureau, the KGB.

The forgery came to light when Hickenlooper released copies of correspondence between himself and Hoover. He had sent a copy of the forgery, which he called "putrid," to Hoover.

Hoover replied that other such copies had come to his attention.

"I never wrote such a letter," the FBI director replied. "It is one of many anonymous mailings sent to various Senators, Congressmen and other prominent Government officials within the past week. They are part of a concerted Communist smear campaign which was launched a year ago."

He added: "Further comparison with other letters circulated in the past in this and other countries by the Soviet Disinformation Department proved irrefutably that this was a Communist scheme."

He said the FBI has determined that his signature had been forged from a letter stolen by Cubans in Havana in 1960.

He also said his name had been forged to letters circulated in Latin America in 1964, attempting to connect the FBI and the CIA to a Brazilian revolution.

FBI sources said the mailing consisted of the forgery on one side of a sheet of paper and, on the other side, a photocopy of a magazine article dealing with Jenkins' arrest. Jenkins now lives in Texas.

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